

REMARKS

Amendments

Claims 1-8 are amended to use language in accordance with conventional US practice. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims. New claims 9-13 are directed to further aspects of applicants' invention and are supported throughout the disclosure. See, e.g., page 3, line 32-page 4, line 3, page 4, lines 16-22, and page 5, lines 19-31.

Election

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-4 (and new claims 9-13). However, this Restriction is respectfully traversed.

The sole basis for the Restriction is the unsubstantial argument that "Claim 1 is either obvious or anticipated by Lang (U.S. Patent No. 3,222,444)." This allegation is unsubstantiated since it does not set forth where Lang discloses each of the features of claim 1 or the motivation to modify the disclosure of Lang so as to arrive at an embodiment of claim 1. If this bare allegation were sufficient, then all an Examiner would need to assert to justify a Restriction would be to allege that a claim was unpatentable over any piece of prior art. Such practice is not sanctioned by any section of the MPEP.

Moreover, upon demonstrating that claim 1 is patentable over the prior art, based on arguments and/or amendments, the sole basis for the Restriction would be eliminated. Thus, rejoinder of the non-elected claims would be proper.

With respect to PCT Rule 13.2, all of the claims refer to the process of claim 1. Thus, all of the claims contain the special technical feature(s) as recited in claim 1. Unity is present. See, e.g., examples 8-17 of Annex B of the PCT Rules.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction is respectfully requested. If not withdrawn, applicants will request rejoinder once claim 1 is determined to be allowable.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brion P. Heaney', is written over a horizontal line.

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